



**Convention on the Elimination
of All Forms of Discrimination
against Women**

Distr.: General
14 December 2022

Original: English
English, French and Spanish only

**Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination
against Women**

**Information received from Zimbabwe on follow-up to the
concluding observations on its sixth periodic report***

[Date received: 13 December 2022]

* The present document is being issued without formal editing.



I. Introduction

1. The Government of Zimbabwe (GoZ) remains committed to the advancement of gender equality, the empowerment of women and the eradication of violence against women and girls. As demonstration of this commitment Zimbabwe has continued to implement the provisions of regional and international instruments including the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women. In line with this commitment GoZ has incorporated in its various policies, strategies and programmes, the provisions of the Convention and other international instruments.

2. GoZ presented its Sixth Periodic Report to the CEDAW Committee in February 2020. The Committee made recommendations to the State Party which the GoZ is making efforts to implement. As requested by the Committee to submit within two (2) years responses on recommendations in paragraph 57 of its concluding observations, the GoZ hereby submits this follow-up Report.

II. Follow-up information

A. Follow-up information relating to paragraph 18 (b) of the concluding observations

3. The GoZ recognises the importance of women's participation in peace processes to ensure sustainable conflict resolution and peace building initiatives bearing in mind that whenever conflicts occur, they affect men and women differently.

4. The Constitution in section 251 establishes the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission (NPRC). The Commission is mandated to ensure post-conflict, justice, healing and reconciliation. There are four (4) women and five (5) men serving as Commissioners of the NPRC. This translates to 44.4% of women's representation and demonstrates the GoZ's commitment to the involvement of women in conflict resolution. The Chairperson is male whilst the Vice-Chairperson is female, thus, ensuring equal and balanced representation in decision-making. In its programming structure, the NPRC has a Victim Support, Gender and Diversity unit as one of its thematic areas. This thematic ensures that the NPRC incorporates gender in its work. The NPRC has put in place peace committees at national, provincial, district and ward levels.

5. Sub-National Peace Infrastructures have been created at Provincial and District levels in the form of Provincial and District Peace Committees. The Peace Committees offer a platform and a mechanism that allows inclusion and meaningful participation of women in peacebuilding processes. Provincial Peace Committees have 50% representation of women at Chairperson and Vice Chairperson level and the overall representation is 171 female members and 176 male members (49% representation of women).

6. Women Peace builders, particularly women in Peace committees, women mediators and networks of female peacebuilders continue to be capacitated in order to enhance strengthen their voices in peace building. Series of Gender Sensitive Conflict Management, Prevention, Resolution and Mediation, Gender and Positive Peace, Gender and Transitional Justice trainings were conducted since 2020 up to date. The trainings have reached out to 112 women and strengthened women's effectiveness in advancing peace building and security issues, including women's peace decision making capacities.

7. Zimbabwe through the NPRC developed the National Conflict Early Warning and Early Response (CEWER) System. The National Conflict Early Warning and Early Response (CEWER) systems is key mechanism to ensure women's participation in conflict prevention. Women and Women's organisations contribute to the National Conflict Early Warning and Early Response system through participating in monitoring and responding to violence against women during conflicts. The system provides real-time information in communities and ensure that there is structural, systemic and operational prevention and timely response to conflicts and the system also has clear GBV Indicators.

8. GoZ with support from the development partners conducted trainings of women in peace building across all the provinces of the country. The training focussed on building the capacity of women to effectively participate in peace processes at grassroots levels. There are plans to expand the trainings in order to reach out to more women.

9. Recognising the importance of women's participation in peace processes, GoZ initiated the process of developing National Action Plan (NAP) on the implementation of the UNSCR 1325. The action plan will provide guidance on implementation of programmes on relief and recovery, protection and prevention of violence against women and girls and how the state party can improve participation of women in peace processes.

10. Since 2020 a total of 77 female officers were deployed to various peace keeping missions making up 64% of all officers deployed in peace keeping missions. The Zimbabwe Defence Forces ensures that women are given priority in peace keeping missions and this has seen more women deployed in peacekeeping missions and women holding key appointments such as Chief Military Personnel Officers, Mission Chief of staff and Gender Officers. Some of these women have excelled in their duties such as Major Winnet Zharare who scooped the 2021 United Nations Military Gender Advocate Award.

B. Follow-up information relating to paragraph 28 (b) of the concluding observations

11. The Committee is informed that Gender Based Violence (GBV) remains one of the challenges that the GoZ continues to grapple with. Harmful practices and beliefs exacerbated by the humanitarian situations like Covid 19 pandemic, cyclones and droughts have been identified as the major causes of GBV. GoZ continues to put in place interventions aimed at encouraging women report cases of GBV to authorities without fear of societal consequences.

12. The State Party has been carrying out awareness campaigns at all levels through multi-media channels to sensitise communities, especially women and girls, on GBV and the need to report such cases. The campaigns have also focussed on demystifying GBV and raising awareness on the legal framework on GBV, referral pathways as well as the availability and type of services for GBV survivors. During the year 2021 a total of 4348 awareness campaigns were held to that effect. In 2022, 3239 awareness campaigns were carried out.

13. The State Party has established One Stop Centres (OSCs) in provinces, which offer services to survivors of violence. The Centres provide a confidential and friendly environment for survivors to encourage them to report gender-based violence cases. The centres provide health, legal, police and psychosocial services. To date seven (7) OSCs have been established in six provinces and in 2021 the centres offered services to 7392 women. To complement the work being done at the static OSCs,

mobile OSCs were introduced by the GoZ with the assistance of development partners. Mobile One Stop Centres provide GBV services to survivors within their areas of residence. Mobile OSCs that are being carried out by various Civic Society Organisations (CSOs).

14. The GoZ working with development partners has put in place safe shelters that offer temporary safe spaces for women survivors and assist them in reporting GBV cases and pursuing the legal proceedings until the cases are resolved and the women are able to return to their communities. Safe shelters have become safe havens where women can stay and pursue legal proceedings to resolve their matters and also to learn empowerment skills that enable them to start income generating activities upon reintegration into the society.

15. Government has also put in place victim friendly units at all police stations to facilitate reporting of Gender Based Violence in a confidential and friendly environment. The units are manned by personnel trained in handling cases of gender-based violence and they ensure survivors are not subjected to any form of further harassment.

16. GoZ in partnership with development partners and CSOs is operating toll free lines to enable prompt, safe and confidential reporting of GBV cases. 104 004 cases have been reported using these facilities since January 2020 to July 2022.

Monthly statistics of survivors that accessed services through the toll free lines

<i>Year</i>	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Apr</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>Jun</i>	<i>Jul</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
2020	1 804	1 785	1 992	2 216	3 691	4 985	6 211	3 707	3 149	4 479	3 976	2 541
2021	2 500	4 108	5 996	3 902	4 274	4 991	2 604	3 480	3 846	2 679	4 041	3 814
2022	4 411	5 458	6 273	3 389	3 827	6 069	3 941					

17. These measures have helped to encourage women and girls to report cases of GBV.

C. Follow-up information relating to paragraph 28 (d) of the concluding observations

18. The State Party through the coordination structures collects data on GBV cases from the public and private entities who are involved in GBV. The Zimbabwe Republic Police, health centres, courts, CSOs and community cadres collect and submit data on reported cases on monthly basis. The data collected is disaggregated by sex and type of violence. The State Party acknowledges the loopholes in the current system.

19. The GoZ is developing a GBV Information Management System which will enable real time, online data collection and also allow for collection of other variables as advised by the Committee. The State Party has also developed a robust Integrated Case Management System (ICMS) that connect all institutions in the justice delivery system.

D. Follow-up information relating to paragraph 30 (b) of the concluding observations

20. GoZ initiated the process of amending the Trafficking in Persons (TiP) Act [*Chapter 9:25*]. The principles were approved by Cabinet in April 2022, and the Attorney General's Office is drafting the initial Bill. The proposed definition of TiP will include all the elements of the offence namely, act, means and purpose. Recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receiving of persons will be defined as punishable acts. For the purpose of the offense, fraud, use of force, threats or other forms of coercion will be regarded as the means. The term exploitation will also be amended to include: all forms of slavery or practice similar to slavery, sexual exploitation, prostitution, child and adult pornography, debt bondage, servitude, forced labour, begging and forced begging, criminal purposes, child labour, unlawful removal of body organs, forced marriages and impregnation of female person against her will for the purpose of selling her child when the child is born. The definition of TiP will therefore be duly aligned to the 2000 Palermo Protocol.
